

HOUSE BILL 466

By Lynn

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8,
Chapter 27, relative to health insurance benefits
for families of first responders.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 27, Part 2, is amended by
adding the following new section:

(a) As used in this section, "first responder" means paid, full-time law
enforcement officers, firefighters, or other emergency services personnel who respond to
calls for emergency assistance from a 911 call and who are employed by this state.
"First responder" also includes capitol police officers and employees of the Tennessee
highway patrol, Tennessee bureau of investigation, and Tennessee wildlife resource
agency.

(b) The state insurance committee may, in approving a health insurance plan
that covers first responders, offer or continue to provide health insurance benefits to the
surviving spouse and children, including any unborn child, of a first responder killed in
the line of duty for a period not to exceed three (3) years after the death of the first
responder.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8, Chapter 27, Part 4, is amended by
adding the following new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "First responder" means paid, full-time law enforcement officers,
firefighters, or other emergency services personnel who respond to calls for

emergency assistance from a 911 call and who are employed by a local government; and

(2) "Local government" means any county, metropolitan government, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state.

(b) If a local government offers health insurance benefits to first responders, the local government may offer or continue to provide health insurance benefits to the surviving spouse and children, including any unborn child, of a first responder killed in the line of duty for a period not to exceed three (3) years after the death of the first responder.

(c) If a local government offers or provides health insurance benefits in accordance with subsection (b), the local government shall notify the commissioner of finance and administration.

(d) This state shall reimburse any local government that provides health insurance benefits in accordance with this section in an amount equal to that portion of health insurance premiums and benefits for which the local government is responsible under the health insurance policy.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.